

Entered at the Postoffice at Marlinton, W. Va., as second class matter

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THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1928

Huntersville road. Speaking of white pine timber, it will be remembered that this is a "odd variety of timber to be found in far south in the United States. It belongs about three hundred and fifty miles farther north and this job lot that grew in these mountains on a strip of land about ten miles by fifty on the west slope of the Allegheny and to the east of Greenbrier river defined the boundaries of a singular geological formation, which in the past did not receive the attention and the study that it deserved.

The Rogers brothers about a hundred years ago noticed it but lacked the boldness and the time and the means to give it more than a glance, but it is apparent that they noticed the wealth of fossils. They had a golden opportunity but were too modest to assert any authority. They saw that the rocks were different and they went so far as to say that it was not proper to use the old world names and they did not name them themselves.

None of us have ever seen the white pine forests as they were at the first. All the broad bottom lands were covered with the great growth of dark green trees that showed black at a distance. All the Knapps Creek Valley was one solid mass of white pine at one time. I have seen some of it standing on the banks of the streams. I can remember the heavy growth on the McCutcheon place near Dunmore on Thomas creek. And the wonderful forest of solid white pine on Hensch run on H. M. Moore's place.

The first efforts to log this timber were more or less feeble. It was only when the Pennsylvanians went to work in earnest and brought down all the practices then in force at Williamsport that things began to move.

The first railroad built in the county was to move this white pine from the skidding places to the landings on the bluffs overlooking the big streams. Captain A. E. Smith some thing over forty years ago got a contract to cut and log white pine and he bought a wagon and team and organized a force of eight men and drove to this county from Indiana county, Pennsylvania, in late summer and he has been here ever since. Most if not all of that band of Argonauts stayed here too.

The work began to prosper and bigger and bigger contracts were called for until he was working upwards of a hundred men, and the northern dialect was very much cultivated by the youngsters here who hoped to make the camp and who wanted to talk the language. The money that was paid for wages in these camps was the first easy money that was ever made in this county. In my boyhood days it seemed to me that a woodsman had more money than he knew what to do with. He had store clothes and a gold watch and a pocket comb and a cravat and all the fixings. I remember one time my father went up to preach at the Dunmore church, and there were candles in the wooden homemade scones on the wall. The lumbermen turned out to night preaching in a body and noticing the faint illumination they went to the store and bought a set of elegant kerosene lamps and fixed up the church with them.

Along in the eighties Captain Smith decided that he could use steam in his transportation and he went down to Pittsburg and hunted up a machine shop and had a ten ton locomotive planned and built. The shop people wanted to know what he was putting on it such as the company's name, but the Captain had a young son at home and told them to put the baby's name on it and at the same time with gold letters, Jim or Little Jim. I do not quite remember which. It was a considerable event. The engine came knocked down to Staunton and there a wagon train met it and brought it in with trucks. The roadbed was composed of two parallel lines of stringers evened up and that locomotive handled a wonderful lot of timber running into hundreds of millions of feet. The man that drove it was the admiration and the envy of every boy in the county. It was a very reliable and enduring bit of machinery. The baby that it was named for is the popular commercial traveler, Jim Smith, of Marlinton. A new fangled car that goes with gasoline ran away down Droop Mountain the other day with him, and he had to go over board in a hurry and escaped with minor bruises.

The principal feeders for white pine were Deer Creek, Sitlington Creek, Knapps Creek, and Anthony Creek, but the greatest of these was Knapps Creek.

One year, I think it was the spring of 1888, that the county became aware of a certain clash in the management of the great timber corporation that controlled the greater part of the white pine. As I recollect it, John Driscoll had the Knapps Creek logging operations in hand, and Van Dyke, who was something of a rich martinet, had charge of the logs that came out of Deer Creek. I remember that in this section, the Huntersville district, that we were all for Driscoll. When the ice broke up at the end of the winter, and the driving floods appeared, Driscoll came to the farmers and said that he had word from Van Dyke that if the Knapps Creek logs, "the rear," were not in the river when the big drive came from the mouth of Sitlington Creek, that the drive would not wait, and Driscoll could get his logs into the boom at Huntersville the best he could. This would mean all kinds of bulldozing for Driscoll, and the able bodied men all turned out and pushed the logs into the river one Saturday afternoon and that night the ark tied up at the mouth of Stony Creek about a mile above Knapps Creek. There was a Kentish man by the

name of Hamilton who was on that drive. Just above where the rail road bridge crosses the creek there was a slight jam of logs. Presently the logs moved and covered the water, and Hamilton an awkward man at the best went down in the water between the logs and there was danger of getting squeezed. Driscoll was standing on the bank and as quick as a cat ran out over the logs and caught Hamilton by the hand and lifted him out of the water and they ran ashore. Driscoll could ride a floating log stick-his cant hook upright in the log, and come right side up and remove his cant hook or peevy and float on down the river without mishap.

The year after, Driscoll came back in full charge and was always thought that the race had something to do with his promotion. It is things like that cause Stewart Edward White to write books like the "River man." White having worked in the Michigan camps where the roles of the Game are the same as they are here.

In the future the scientists will find signs of the splash dams erected in this period to augment the flow of the water, and will argue about them.

There has been a good deal said about Huntersville in these columns this winter, one of the reasons being that your humble servant has been on that road hundreds of times since the leaves fell last fall and has found it a fruitful subject. In a way it has been done hastily and none of the rules for careful writing have been observed. They could not be for I am a lone worker and it has been something like a freshman writing writing duty letters to the home of its.

I want to say though that if I have succeeded in getting the crawfish of the streams of this region recognized as belonging to the trilobite family, the labor is not in vain. These lords of creation have fallen very low and have to lurk in hiding, but they hold their own in the station they now occupy. Since writing about them I hunted up a very large and husky trilobite and found it under a large flat stone. The ungrateful brute immediately laid hold of my hand and pinched until the blood ran and I had to have first aid at the drug store. I did not make it snap its claw off, for the reason that I wanted to make a close examination of it.

In view of my late studies of its fossil ancestors. The crawfish has ten legs. Two are armed with pincers formed by one movable and one hinged sheath or jaw. Six legs are equipped with similar claws, smaller, but with considerable power to pinch and hold. The four hind legs, two on each side have one finger only, and this is because they do not have to use them to fight or fend.

The trilobite is known for its pop eyes; and in this the crawfish has preserved during all these ages the pop eye of all creation. Under a magnifying glass these eyes look like insulators made out of black glass. I put the crawfish back in the water. The crawfish burrows for many feet through the close packed earth and makes a real tunnel. They must be in on top of the ground for heaps of earth around their holes indicate that they carry quantities of earth backwards up a perpendicular wall. Every farmer knows about this. Crawfish land is a word of disparagement and calls for heavy doses of lime and drainage.

I want to call attention to the fact that while there are millions of fossil shells in the mountains I am writing about that shell life has not disappeared from the waters there. There is an interesting gastropod present in the waters of Knapps Creek and its tributaries in great quantities. These are alive and they also exist in untold millions, and they frolic and skip and are very active. I refer to the periwinkle, a survivor of the shell family, and one of the most interesting of primitive animals.

Go to a little bay in the side of the creek where the water covered a d-drummer had the opportunity to accumulate a fine coating of silt or mud. Out in the current the river rocks are washed bare, but in the mud tops you will see all sorts of trails and circles and squares like the trails in the fresh fallen snow around a school house made by the children. These paths on the rock are caused by the wanderings of the periwinkle in search of food and society.

The periwinkle is known to every barefooted boy. The shell fish forces itself upon the boy's consciousness for in the early spring before the foot has acquired its sole leather bottom, the wading boy is constantly stepping on the little sharp pointed shells that lie on every sunken stone, and these cause discomfort to the wader in the water. A little later the boy will not notice them so much. And it is a ever present cause of trouble to the gentleman or lady who takes off shoes to wade the creek or river.

In size they are about as big as small marble and they feel like a gravel in the shoe. They have a conical ringed top and one opening in the bottom. In fact they are nothing more or less than a fresh water snail, and they can carry their houses on their backs. They frequent the tops of stones but they are alive to the chances of food in the pool. They are much prized for trout bait when all other things have failed, and one way to take them is to submerge a

piece of a bush in the water. After in a short time it may be withdrawn with numbers of the shell fish clinging to it.

They are fresh water snails. And as they live in swift water it may be said that they are active and strong.

I am not sure that I have found any fossils that could be identified as the present day periwinkle. Fossils do not lend themselves to identification very readily anyway. If a sea change is produced in a vegetable or animal after a day or two, what might be expected after thousands of years and the various processes a fossil goes through. While the Huntersville fossils are most vivid and clear out of any, yet at the same time any fossil gives an active imagination vast opportunities for self deception. It has become a sort of cult here for to support the printed word and a great many talented young men have been sacrificed to uphold the false theories of decadent scientists. Greater love hath no scientist than this. I have found gastropods but they had been flattened somewhat by the weight of the mountain.

But there is one thing sure. The Indians were fond of the periwinkle. When they arrived at their camping places along these streams the order of the day was to gather the periwinkles and boil them for soup. The Indian was an experienced camper and he had his regular dump pile and any use of shell fish led to a great heap of refuse. In this section there have been left many heaps periwinkle shells.

On the Potomac River there is a heap, mostly of oysters, that covers thirty acres of ground. The shell heaps in this section are often found by the plowing of fields.

The word gastropod means belly foot. The foot is the biggest thing about the periwinkle. It is round like the elephant foot. When the periwinkle is not at home it sports its tail by closing the trap door by closing the shell lid. This is the first impulse on being picked up and most persons do not observe it further than to see that it has closed up as tight as can be. Not a particle of water could get into its shell.

But if you have a good glass and hold it belly up for a while you will see the small lid and the first thing to be seen is the foot protruding. The lid on being reversed is a part of the foot which opens and closes like the hand of a man and with which it can move with considerable speed, and with which it can climb the wall of a tin can with ease.

After a time, it sticks its head out by the side of its foot and it does this to see. It has sombre brown eyes which look out at you with a more or less intelligent expression. It has a sucking mouth which moves in what may be meant to be a threatening attitude but being its duty toothless, does not seem so ferocious. Then it sticks its whole head out and presently it is pretty well out of its shell. It is rather terrifying under the magnifier as it looks like a snake reaching over a white surface to get you. But it is too small to see with the naked eye. That is I cannot make out its features, its eyes, or its forbidding expression, though I can plainly see the big round disc of a foot.

I had picked up the shell without realizing that it was a living thing. I put it back into the water unhurt, just as I did the crawfish of the evil eye.

There is one shell fish that used to be plentiful in Knapps Creek, that has wholly disappeared and that is the fresh water mussel. It was a bivalve about three inches long with a black or dark covering and lined with mother of pearl. Its half shells were plentiful on the creek bed and easily discernible by their white color shining through the water. Most barefooted boys of that day and time knew what it was to cut the foot on mussel shell. It was something like stepping on a butcher knife. Mussel fossils are very plentiful in the ancient formations, but the mussel, the living mussel, has disappeared within the last thirty years. Probably due to the introduction of the black bass into the waters here. That is an imprudent fish that literally eats itself out of house and home and has to be moved from river to river according to the food supply. England is now preparing to plant the black bass in her rivers, and they will have a tipping time for a while and then wonder what has happened to their fishing streams.

There are some more things to write about in this neighborhood. Rodney Buzzard, and Esco Alderman

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NOTICE

I have lost one certificate, containing two shares of the Hise Gun Flash Light Stock, and am filing this notice in compliance with laws, and ask that the company issue to me a duplicate for the one lost and marked No. 8.

big landowners on Cummings Creek put me on to some very fine dendrites, something like moss agate. Beautiful representation of moss in a transparent stone, probably selenite, glassy gypsum. More about this later. We have the promise of a headstone from the War Department for the tomb of John Bradshaw, the soldier of the Revolution.

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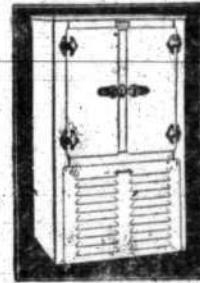
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